

FISCAL NOTE
HB 53 – SB 248

March 31, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires funding for English language learner (ELL) instructors to be included in the Basic Education Program (BEP) as a classroom component instead of an instructional positions component; requires funding for one full-time ELL instructor for each 20 ELL students and one translator for each 200 ELL students in fiscal year 2007-2008 and thereafter. Funding for English language learners would be at a state aggregate of 75%.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$32,000,000
Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* – \$8,000,000
Increase Local Govt. Revenues – Exceeds \$32,000,000


Assumptions:

- Some LEAs may spend more on ELL-related positions than they are required to in the BEP formula. In these cases, any impact to LEAS because of this bill could potentially be absorbed into the LEAs' current budgets. These LEAs would not be required to increase expenditures because they already spend more than the BEP requires of them. However, there would be an increase in local government expenditures to the extent some LEAs would be required to hire positions to meet the new ELL ratios.
- Assumes any increase in state share/expenditures as a result of the bill would translate into an increase in local revenues; a decrease in state share/expenditures for an LEA would translate into a decrease in local revenues.
- For FY07-08, English language learner students (ELL) shall generate instructional positions at a 1:20 teacher-pupil ratio, and translators at a 1:200 translator-student ratio. The existing ratio is one teacher for every 45 students and one translator for every 450 students.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

